

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 14 to 31 and 33 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A management apparatus for managing license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of a program executable on an image forming apparatus or a function of the image forming apparatus, comprising:

acquisition means for acquiring, ~~from the outside~~ via a network, license identification information for identifying license information, and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program;

management means for managing license identification information corresponding to license information that has already been installed;

determination means for determining whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management means so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information; and

~~changing~~ installation means for, if the determination means determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management means, ~~changing~~ installing the license information to add the amount of allowed usage of the program in accordance with the license information acquired by the acquisition means, wherein the installation means does not install the license information if

the determination means determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management means.

2. (Currently Amended) A management apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein

the management apparatus further manages expiration-date-of-installation information indicating a period during which the license information acquired by the acquisition means is valid; and

the management apparatus further comprises authentication means for authenticating the expiration date of installation of the license information.

3. (Currently Amended) A management apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the management means further manages an encryption key of an already-installed program code together with program identification information ~~for~~ identifying the program.

4. (Previously Presented) A management apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein

the license information is encrypted using an encryption key uniquely assigned to the image forming apparatus; and

the management apparatus further comprises decryption means for decrypting the encrypted license information.

5. (Currently amended) A management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, if the license information acquired by the acquisition means indicates an increment in the right of usage of the program, the ~~changing~~ installation means increases the already-installed right of usage of the program by an amount equal to the increment in the right of usage indicated by the license information, while, if the license information acquired by the acquisition means indicates a decrement in the right of usage of the program, the ~~changing~~ installation means reduces the already-installed right of usage of the program by an amount equal to the decrement in the right of usage indicated by the license information.

6. (Currently Amended) A management apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the management means manages the license information in the form of certification information; and

the license information in the form of certification information certifies the right of a particular amount of usage of a program installed on the image forming apparatus or a function of the image forming apparatus, ~~and the license information in the form of certification information can be dealt with as valuable.~~

7. (Currently amended) A management method for managing license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of a program executable on an image forming apparatus or a function of the image forming apparatus, comprising the steps of:

acquiring, ~~from the outside~~ via a network, license identification information for identifying license information, and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program;

managing by a management unit license identification information corresponding to license information that has already been installed;

determining whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit ~~in the management step~~ so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information; and

an installation step of, if it is determined in the ~~determination~~ determining step that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed ~~in the management step~~ by the management unit, ~~changing~~ installing the license information to add the amount of allowed usage of the program in accordance with the license information acquired in the ~~acquisition~~ acquiring step, and if the determining step determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, not installing the acquired license information.

8. (Currently Amended) A management method according to claim 7, wherein the management step further includes the step of managing expiration-date-of-installation information indicating a period during which the license information acquired in the acquisition step is valid; and

the method further comprises the step of authenticating the expiration date of installation of the license information.

9. (Currently Amended) A management method according to claim 7, wherein the management step further includes the step of managing an encryption key of an already-installed program code together with program identification information ~~for~~ identifying the program.

10. (Previously Presented) A management method according to claim 7, wherein

the license information is encrypted using an encryption key uniquely assigned to the image forming apparatus; and

the method further comprises the step of decrypting the encrypted license information.

11. (Currently amended) A management method according to claim 7, wherein, in the ~~changing~~ installation step, if the license information acquired in the acquisition step indicates an increment in the right of usage of the program, the already-installed right of usage of the program is increased by an amount equal to the increment in the right of usage indicated by the license information, while, if the license information acquired in the acquisition step indicates a discernment in the right of usage of the program, the already-installed right of usage of the program is reduced by an amount equal to the decrement in the right of usage indicated by the license information.

12. (Currently amended) A management method according to claim 7, wherein the management step manages the license information in the form of certification information, and ~~includes the step of dealing with the license information as valuable that~~ certifies the right of a particular amount of usage of a program installed on the image forming apparatus or a function of the image forming apparatus peripheral device.

13. (Currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium including a control program stored thereon for being executed by a processor to manage license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of a program executable on an image forming apparatus or a function of the image forming apparatus, the control program comprising the steps of:

acquiring, ~~from the outside~~ via a network, license identification information ~~for identifying license information, and license information indicating an amount of a~~ change in a right of usage of the program;

managing by a management unit license identification information corresponding to license information that has already been installed;

determining whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit in the management step so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information; and

an installation step of, if it is determined in the ~~determination~~ determining step that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed ~~in~~ by

the management ~~step unit~~, ~~changing~~ installing the license information to add the amount of allowed usage of the program in accordance with the license information acquired in the ~~acquisition~~ acquiring step, and if the ~~determining~~ step determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management unit, not installing the acquired license information.

14. to 31. (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A management apparatus for managing license information indicating an amount of allowed usage of a program executable on an image forming apparatus or a function of the image forming apparatus, comprising:

an acquisition device ~~adapted to that~~ acquires, from the outside via a network, license identification information ~~for identifying license information,~~ and license information indicating an amount of a change in a right of usage of the program;

a management device ~~adapted to that~~ manages license identification information corresponding to license information that has already been installed;

a determination device ~~adapted to that~~ determines whether the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management device so as to avoid a duplicate installation of the license information; and

~~a changing an installation~~ device ~~adapted to that~~, if the determination device determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the

acquired license information is not included in the license identification information managed by the management device, ~~change~~ installs the license information to add the amount of allowed usage of the program in accordance with the license information acquired by the management device, and if the determination device determines that the acquired license identification information corresponding to the acquired license information is included in the license identification information managed by the management device, does not install the acquired license information.

33. (Canceled)